

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

December 03, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

Mayor Gatsas called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alderman Corriveau stated I'm honored to introduce Ward 6 residents and students from Green Acres Elementary to lead us in the pledge this evening, Madison Stumpf and Makenna Patt. Thank you for joining up this evening.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Long, Roy, Osborne, Corriveau, O'Neil, Levasseur, Shea, Shaw, Greazzo, Gamache, Arnold

Absent: Aldermen Ludwig, Katsiantonis

Mayor Gatsas advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair, that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Mr. Jon Hopwood, 445 Mast Road, stated I have some handouts for the board. That is an example of the kinds of comment board combat that people get engaged in, including aldermen. I would just like to say that I don't have any prepared remarks for tonight because as soon as I prepare something, something new happens with the dog park. I found out that there is a black list at the MDPA now that the executive board members banned me. I found out today that they banned the citizen who testified about the dog park with me on October 29th, but not only that citizen, but his wife and his 26 year old son too. I just found out that the also banned Dave Bigelow. If you see the second

handout that I gave each one of you, that is part of the comment board where Dave Bigelow criticized the alderman from Ward 10 and the conduct of the MDPA. I don't know frankly what to say. Now that we have a black list I already accused the board in acting like Joseph McCarthy in its dictatorial tactics and they just keep proving me right. The banning of members is outrageous, particularly to take a person's family members, their son. The chairman of this board criticized me and the citizen at the end of the meeting on October 29th. That's fine. He can take any shot he wants at me, but we do know that that citizen, his wife, sits on the board of a prominent non-profit. They both have raised a great deal of money for that non-profit that works with disabled children, including their son. The alderman from Ward 10 knows that they are on that board, knows that they are on that charity, knows that they wanted to raise money for the dog park. They know that the son suffers from a disability, yet they ban him? It is incredible. I'm just reminded of the army and McCarty in 1954. Some of us of a certain age can remember that and some of us have read about that. Joseph Welch, who was the counsel to the army, finally had had enough of McCarthy when he attacked someone personally. What did Mr. Welch tell Joe McCarthy after he had made personal attacks? He said, you have done enough. Have you no sense at decency? Have you left no sense of decency? I ask the board to look into this denial of due process. It has reached a level of absurdity.

Mr. Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving. Local issues: the elections are over so there is no sense in hiding anything anymore. It is time for the truth to come out. Over a year ago the supreme court came down with a decision in our local Welfare Department. Seven days, not six months... The Wednesday before the election at a debate right here in city hall he made it clear it had been changed, even on the website. As of five o'clock tonight, the website has not been changed. As of January 31st, if the law is not applied as the supreme court has decided, it will be re-challenged in the supreme court. What is wrong? We had a decision made by the supreme court. Why can't we follow it well over a year later? Welfare... A woman dies. Has no money. The husband goes to get the wife buried and no way... Someone who owns a house in this city, who pays taxes, a sister has to come up with the \$1,000. That money was supposed to go to pay the taxes. Is that what it is supposed to be all about? Aren't we supposed to take care of those who are really indigent? The man goes back after the funeral to get help to finish that month's rent because the wife's check doesn't come in any more since she has passed away. He is asked to sign an affidavit that the City is not responsible for the burial of his wife. He goes through the application and comes back with an answer of no. All he needed was \$150. Now he is on the street. He has left the state. His brother took him in in Florida. Here is the problem, it goes deeper than that, the housing that he was in, the apartment did not qualify for a certificate

of compliance, yet in February we issued it. The investigation has stopped because the client is gone. What happens to the next people who move into that apartment? Do we start the vicious circle all over again and allow more people to pay rent and not get what they are supposed to be getting because someone at city hall or in the departments is not following through? Too much time is lapsing. This is not the kind of city that I believe we are looking for in Manchester. If we have laws and ordinances let us enforce them.

Mr. Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, stated good evening, mayor and honorable board. I'm just taking advantage because you have cameras rolling. The good people of Ward 12, if you are at home listening, next Wednesday night we would like you to be our guest here at the City Hall aldermanic chambers at 7:00 p.m. The DOT plan for exits 6&7 are going to be unveiled and if you would like to come down and have public comment, you can come in and comment on future plans. If you can't, I'm sure the cameras will be rolling so you can see that the new ramps are going to go behind the college and take some traffic off of Front Street. Alderman Arnold is going to be absent so I'm going to try to answer any questions that I can. Marty Kennedy from the DOT will be here with many others.

Mayor Gatsas stated there was a presentation on the main agenda, but we can move it to this time if that is possible. This is a group of students from Weston Elementary School and Hillside who met with the chief and I a few months ago and talked if we are prepared as a City or if the homes in the city are prepared if there is a disaster. Chief Burkush and I went through all of the things that we do in the city and they came up with an idea that they would present to this board and I suggested they come forward to this board and do the presentation... I see that they have a TV screen there. If you have an opportunity to take a look at this pamphlet, it is something that I believe needs to be on the City website and somehow gotten to every person in the city so they can develop their own kit and it gives them an awful lot of information. I was amazed that they came back with such a great product and the City should be very proud of the work that these students have done. Let me turn it over to the Brickmasters.

Skit by the Brickmasters.

Mayor Gatsas stated they had done this skit about three weeks ago at Hillside, but because they had not done the presentation formally they got some points knocked off, but I guess next week you are going off to Nashua to be in the state championship. Now that you have done your presentation and I just hope no one out there thinks that we are going to have a storm. I can tell you that sometimes great ideas don't have to come from

elected officials. Sometimes great ideas from students and their visions of what people need. I was shocked when they showed us the statistics, the chief and I, on how many people they interviewed who were not prepared for a storm. It was amazing. It was such a high number that you would have thought that by now, people in this part of the country, would have been prepared with the essentials that you see.

Alderman Roy stated thank you for the presentation. You did a great job. Have you thought of going into Manchester Public Television and doing this so they can tape it and play it over for our citizens? Maybe you could give them a call.

Mayor Gatsas stated they already have you on TV, but I'm sure that they will take you again so you can give a presentation and everyone can see it as many times as we show it. Maybe we will even show it at the next storm. Hopefully we won't have any storms and you won't have to worry about it.

Alderman Arnold stated I just want to offer my compliments to the Brickmasters. You said that not all good ideas come from elected officials. I agree with you. I also think that maybe we have some future elected officials in Manchester right here in front of us. Congratulations on a nicely done project.

Mayor Gatsas stated I have a resolution for each one of you. I'll read it so that you know that the City respects the ideas that you have and we are going to find a way to get this to every resident in the city of Manchester. Even if we have to pay for the printing, I'm sure that don't be a deterrent from the board because I think it is a great idea to get it to seniors and everybody.

The City of Manchester, A Resolution:

Be it known that the Office of the Mayor extends its congratulations to Jayden Preston, Noah Merrill, Sophia Mendez, and Ryan in recognition of your hard work and dedication to the Brickmasters First Lego League Roboites Team; and

Be it further known that the Office of the Mayor extends its best wishes for continued success.

Alderman O'Neil stated Your Honor, do you think we could send a copy of this to the people in Hooksett who are critical of our school system.

Mayor Gatsas stated Alderman, I don't think you want me to jump on that one right now. Does anyone else have anything that we can get out of the way?

Alderman O'Neil stated just a personal item from Alderman Corriveau and I in wishing John Lasheur, who is a Ward 6 resident and up until November 1st a captain with the New Hampshire State Police, to congratulate him on his appointment as the new police chief for the City of Beverly, Massachusetts. John and his wife Fran will be relocating to that area. I hope all the board joins Alderman Corriveau and I in wishing John and his wife Fran in wishing them all the best. John was a commander of Troop B here in the State Police and at one point as a lieutenant very instrumental in working with the Manchester Police Department. He was promoted to captain and wore several different hats. If you remember, John maybe played his most important role when this community lost Office Michael Briggs and John served what I would call the master of ceremonies for the pallbearers for the procession and service for Michael and the burial of Michael. I think he deserves our sincere thanks for that, but also for his effort as a career law enforcement official. I know we all wish him the best of luck. Ward 6 is losing some good folks with John and Fran. I wish him the best of luck with that. Thank you, Your Honor.

Mayor Gatsas stated Alderman-Elect Hirschmann talked about Exits 6&7 and the hearing that is going to be here. I know that the presentation that they are going to do is... This is not an easy fix. It is not one of the shortcut methods that they had presented. This is a full blown fix to Exits 6&7 so we are not looking to go back to DOT in ten or 15 years asking what else they have left to give us. I think that the next process is that we have to push the legislature to find us, I believe, \$10 million for the project and then later on in the year push them to find the funding and move the entire project up in that ten year plan because it has to be done sooner rather than later. Certainly I invite any alderman who wants to come in and participate in that conversation to be here. I'm going to try to get here because I think it is important that we voice our opinions on what is happening at Exits 6&7.

Alderman O'Neil stated Your Honor, I did happen to see Commissioner Clement at an event last night and asked him if they might be willing to come back down like they did in March. If you recall, they did a presentation just to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that was very well received. I think we spent over two hours on it. Commissioner Clement has agreed and will be working with the Clerk's Office to see if we can find a night that fits everyone's schedule after the first of the year. Also, to talk about Exits 6&7 and talk about Exit 4, which is now under construction and the challenges of that coming forward. I think those are the two big ones. There is a possibility that there may

be a draft on the passenger rail study. I don't know if Alderman Long has had a chance to confirm that or not. If there is a public draft ready we can talk about that, but talk about Exits 4, 6&7 most likely sometimes towards the end of January. I think many commented that that was a great discussion that we had that night. We will be working with your office to coordinate that.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Roy**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

City Clerk